29th July 1953]

18 Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Society, Chowghat.

19 Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Society, Mundur.

20 Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Society, Ponnani.

21 Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Society, Nilambur.

"(*b*) Yes, Sir. The Government have since decided that the Collector should continue to be in charge of the Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies in the district till such time as they give up the work of distribution of food-grains and are reorganized and transformed into normal types of societies."

Malabar rice stocked in Tirunelveli district.

*1243 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member Sri K. T. Kosalram is not in his place. So the question together with the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of stock of Malabar rice in Tirunelveli district during January 1953 with wholesale dealers and Government godowns;

(*b*) whether the Collector of Tirunelveli reported to the Board of Revenue and the Government that the stocks are deteriorating;

(*c*) what were the instructions of the Board as well as the Government to the Collector in this matter;

(*d*) how long was it stocked;

(*e*) when the release order for sale was issued;

(*f*) the price at which the stock was disposed of;

(*g*) what was the loss incurred in this disposal; and

(*h*) who is responsible for this loss?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"(*a*) There was no stock of Malabar rice in Government godowns in Tirunelveli district in January 1953. A quantity of 84,222 maunds and 17 seers of Malabar rice was held by private wholesalers in the district in that month.

"(*b*) Yes.

"(*c*) As the reports received from the Collector of Malabar and the Board in the first instance about the condition of the stocks of Malabar rice imported into Tirunelveli district did not indicate that the stocks had so deteriorated that they could not be preserved for some months the Government

issued orders about the middle of March 1953, that the old stocks should be cleaned properly at Government's cost and preserved carefully to meet the increased demand for rice during the lean months commencing from June 1953. Later on, the Government received reports from private merchants that the stocks were fast deteriorating and that it would not be possible to find a sale for the rice at the prices fixed by the Government. The Government then ordered that the stocks should be disposed of in the open market at a reduced price of 10 annas per Madras measure. Based on the above orders, the Board issued necessary instructions to the Collector of Tirunelveli.

"(d) The stocks were in storage for a total period ranging from 8 to 11 months in Malabar and Tirunelveli districts. In Tirunelveli district alone, the stocks were in storage for a period from 3 to 4 months.

"(e) The Government issued order authorizing the sale of the old stocks of Malabar rice in the open market at reduced price on 7th April 1953.

"(f) A small portion of the stocks (about 2,000 maunds) was sold at the pool rates (i.e., about As. 15 per Madras measure for first sort and As. 12–6 per Madras measure for second sort). The remaining stocks were disposed of in the open market at the reduced price of 10 annas per Madras measure.

"(g) The loss in the transaction is estimated at about Rs. 5·35 lakhs.

"(h) It is not possible to say that any one person or set of persons are responsible for the loss. Due to reduced offtake through fair price shops on account of availability of rice in the open market at reasonable prices and due to the initial anxiety, the stocks remained undisposed of for a long time."

Andhra Paper mills.

* 1244 Q.—SRI C. PRABAKARA CHOWDARY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the present average monthly rate of production of paper in the Andhra Paper Mills;

(b) what proportion of the production is purchased by this State Government;

(c) whether the Government are purchasing the paper at any concessional price and if so what that concession is;

(d) what are the net profits earned by the Mills during the years 1949–50, 1950–51 and 1951–52;

(e) whether there are any proposals with the Government pending approval for the disbursement of bonus to the employees; and if so, what percentage of the net profits is earmarked for the distribution of bonus;